The Trust of Christ

(Luke 22:31-34, 54-62)

There are times when we weep over our own weakness, failures, and inadequacies. We feel disgusted with ourselves, sink into self-hatred, and no longer wish to meet anyone. Regret and disappointment press us down until we want to shut ourselves away. Even as Christians, such moments come. Yet in those very moments, our Lord continues to love us, comfort us, and—amazingly—trust us still.

I. The Lord Knows Human Weakness

Peter was likely a man already well into maturity, with years of life experience. He should have understood himself by then. But he had not yet grasped the depth of his own weakness. Without such knowledge, he lacked compassion for the weak and struggled to admit his own mistakes.

Jesus, however, already knew Peter's weakness. He knew the frailty of human nature itself, even when people do not recognize it in themselves. He understood better than anyone how blind we can be to our own shortcomings.

Many of us are the same—we think we know ourselves, but we only know in part. Some even pretend to know when it suits them. The truth is that only those who deeply understand weakness can truly help others. For Peter to become such a man, he needed to taste failure himself. Thus God allowed this trial, so that Peter might become useful in a deeper way. The same is true for us: some of the trials we face are God's instruments to shape us into people he can use.

II. The Lord Does Not Despair Over Human Weakness

When we see others stumble in weakness, our natural response is often to feel disappointed, even to grow angry, despise them, or cut ties. But such reactions reveal our own lack of understanding.

Our Lord, by contrast, never despairs over human weakness. Though strong himself, he chose to take on weakness, to bear our frailty in his own flesh. He entered into our broken humanity, even tasting the suffering caused by the sinful societies we create.

So when Peter denied him, Jesus was not shocked. He had known it all along. He had called Peter with full awareness of his shortcomings. Likewise, we need not hide in shame. Christ chose us before we knew ourselves. He called us with all our flaws in view.

III. The Lord Trusts Beyond Human Weakness

When we hire someone, we seek those who are reliable. But Jesus called his disciples knowing they were unreliable. He seeks not finished products but those willing to grow.

When Jesus first called Peter, the Greek wording carried the nuance: *"I will make you."* In other words, *"I myself will shape you into what you must become."* Jesus is able to form people into useful servants, even if they are weak and incomplete.

Thus he entrusted Peter with discipleship, training him, using him, and seeing ahead to what he would one day become. He told him: *"When you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."*

In the same way, Christ sees our future beyond our present failures. Whether we scarcely know our weakness, or are crushed under its weight, Jesus understands us. He patiently works to shape us into vessels useful for God's glory and for the comfort of others.

So let us not put our trust in ourselves, but in this Jesus. He is the One who trusts us, even when we falter, and who makes us what we could never be on our own.